

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-30, and 32-38 are pending. Claims 6-26 withdrawn.

Claim 38 is now withdrawn. New claim 39 is supported at least at p. 9 Example 1, thus introducing no new matter.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, as follows.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 27-30, and 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Drizen U.S. Published Application No. 20020037319 in view of Cantor U.S. Published Application No. 20030054025. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants composition is a solution. It is formed in sterile water at neutral pH. As Applicants' April 15, 2009 Amendment explains, a solution provides different properties as compared to a gel or dried film. For example, Applicants' composition can flow into cavities, whereas a film or gel cannot flow into cavities.

The Examiner states that

Optimization such as how much water is in the composition of Drizen et al. would be easily done to fit the particular situation or product formulation (solution to be dropped on a wound, gel to be applied to a wound, dried composition onto a bandage formulation, etc.). There is obvious motivation to form the product how it is desired by the consumer and would be easily done.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Drizen teaches only one "obvious motivation to form the product how it is desired", and that form is a gel, not a solution. Specifically, Drizen teaches "concentrated gelled composition" (¶13); "The negative charged polymers are generally present in the system in amounts which enables a solid gel to be formed" (¶51); "The solutions used to prepare the gel of the present invention may be prepared in a variety of ways" (¶52); "The resulting system is a clear gel which is storage stable for several years" (¶55).

Applicants disagree that it would be obvious to formulate Drizen's composition as a sterile aqueous solution at a neutral pH, at least because Drizen specifically teaches away from anything other than a gel. Forming a solution with Drizen's composition would directly contradict its teachings. For example, Drizen teaches "The solutions used to prepare the gel ..." (¶52), thus Drizen specifically teaches not using the solution, but rather needing to convert the solution form of matter into a gel form of matter.

The Examiner is contradicting Drizen's teachings, specifically limiting its composition to a gel, when stating that Drizen's composition can be in any of a solution, gel, or dried composition.

Cantor teaches a method of making medical pressure sensitive adhesive articles. The Examiner cites Cantor as teaching "antimicrobial agents such as iodine complexes with potassium iodide ... as preferred agents". However, Cantor does not teach the use of hyaluronic acid, whether it be in solution, gel, or dried form. Thus, Cantor does not cure Drizen's deficiency, at least because Drizen in view of Cantor does not teach a composition for wound healing and

minimizing adhesion to the wound comprising a physiologically acceptable salt of hyaluronic acid having molecular weight from 200,000 to 2,500,000, iodine and potassium iodide, forming a composition for wound healing and minimizing adhesion of a wound covering to a wound, wherein the composition is in the form of a sterile aqueous solution at a neutral pH.

Applicants respectfully assert that Drizen in view of Cantor does not render claims 1-4, 27-30, and 32-37 obvious, and therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

New claim 39 recites a composition comprising a physiologically acceptable salt of hyaluronic acid having molecular weight from 1,000,000 to 2,500,000. Drizen specifically teaches away from hyaluronic acid having molecular weight greater than or equal to 800,000 (See ¶¶29 and 49). Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 39 is not obvious over Drizen in view of Cantor.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in complete condition for allowance. The two month date is September 7, 2009, which was a federal holiday. Thus, today's filing is timely within the two month date. No fees are believed due but, if deemed necessary, the Office is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative with questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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